

CO-CHAIRS REPORT

TO Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee

FROM Co-chairs

DATE 1 May for 4 May 2020 Committee meeting

TOPIC Co-chairs report

General progress

This is our third full Committee meeting during NZ’s Covid-19 response and the first since we have moved out of the Level 4 lockdown. We have developed a new, constructive way of working together - from our homes spread right across the breadth of our whaitua (and beyond).

Our small group discussions have got off to a good start as we begin to work through the various “issues” identified by the Policy subgroup. The first phase of small group meetings has allowed us to draw together the information that we gathered last year, alongside our own community insights, to consider what are the “issues” main challenges, what solutions might be available and what further information we need to inform our discussions. We look forward to a second phase of meetings that build on the first by drawing in other important information such as the work of the Expert Panel, the recommendations in the Porirua WIP, our community engagement results and much more. Te Kāhui Taiao are progressing positively and are currently in the process of exploring particular issues which are of specific interest to mana whenua. Te Kāhui Taiao have noted their desire to bring the full committee into a discussion about these specific issues and how they may be provided.

We are working toward developing a Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP) at the end of this year. However, our ability to influence the state of our whaitua is much wider than just the WIP document. Over coming months, let’s continue to use the unique opportunity of the Whaitua process to raise the profile of water – both within our communities and with the regulators and decision makers who are active in this space. We want to ensure that our work pulls on as many levers as possible to drive an improvement in the state of our water in the long term. This is about utilising our social power to influence, communicate and share our collective and shared message.

Updates

The following sections provide a summary of key activities that took place in April:

Small Groups

The first tranche of small group meetings has now been held as on the following topics:

Meeting date	"Issue" discussed
8 & 9 April (test sessions)	<i>Wastewater gets into our urban streams and harbour (at all flows).</i>
16 April	<i>Flood management and water course management does not always consider effects on habitat & biodiversity.</i>
17 April	<i>There are considerable inefficiencies in water use (leaks in network and inefficient use).</i>
21 April	<i>Increased sediment loss, due to unsuitable land use and/or practices, is impacting on streams & estuaries.</i>
23 April	<i>We need a better understanding of the impact of taking groundwater on the Hutt River.</i>

Subgroups

- The subgroups have not met over this past period but are scheduled to do so over the coming month. We expect that subgroups will meet as needed, rather than as a regular monthly meeting.

Co-chairs, Committee Members and Project Team

- The Co-chairs continue to meet with Tim, Phil and Glen via Zoom to provide feedback on progress and help shape the Committee's agenda for the Committee meetings.
- Vanessa Tipoki (policy advisor) and Hannah Rainforth (Mātauranga Māori expert) from Perception Planning have been contracted to support Te Kahui Taiao.

External Engagements

- No formal engagements have occurred over this period.